IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 0033 as follows:

[0033] Membrane 55 is formed form a relatively elastic material and is connected to wall section 54 such that membrane 55 is disposed across fluid flow channel 56 to impede flow between fluid flow channel 56 and an external region ER (i.e., either from fluid flow channel 56 to external region ER, or from external region ER to fluid flow channel 56). In the disclosed embodiment, membrane 55 has a circular outer perimeter 57 that is secured to wall section 54, elastic membrane 55 is formed from a suitable material (e.g., soft rubber, thermoplastic elastomer, or silicone) having a thickness ~~T1~~ T2 in the range of 0.01 to 0.1 inches (more particularly, 0.02 to 0.05 inches). According to the present invention, membrane 55 defines a plurality of spaced-apart pinholes 58 and 59 formed using the procedure describe below such that when the membrane is subjected to normal atmospheric conditions and the membrane remains non-deformed, pinholes 58 and 59 remain closed to prevent fluid flow between fluid flow channel 56 and external region ER through membrane 55. As described in additional detail below, pinholes 58 and 59 are also formed such that when membrane 55 is deformed (stretched) in response to an applied pressure differential between fluid flow channel 56 and external region ER, pinholes 58 and 59 open to facilitate fluid flow through membrane 55. Accordingly, pinholes 58 and 59 facilitate adjustable fluid flow through membrane 55 that increases in direct relation to the applied pressure differential, thereby facilitating, for example, a baby bottle nipple that can be used throughout a child's development from infant to toddler.

Please amend paragraph 0042 as follows:

[0042] Referring to Fig. 5, the apparatus includes a base structure 400 and a movable structure 405. Base structure 400 is shaped to fit inside of control element 50 in a manner that

stretches wall section 54, thereby stretching elastic membrane 55 along its radial direction (i.e., along the plane X-Y). In the disclosed embodiment, base structure 400 has a diameter ~~D2~~ D400 that is 1% to 10% greater than the diameter D of wall section 54 (see Fig. 2(A)). Accordingly, as indicated in Fig. 6(A) when base structure 400 is press-fitted into wall section 54 (as shown in Fig. 5), a tensile force F is generated that stretches membrane 55 along plane X-Y such that it expands by 1% to 10% of its resting diameter.

Please amend paragraph 0046 as follows:

[0046] Referring to Figs. 8 and 9, nipple 150 includes a lower disk-shaped flange 151, a lower conical wall section 152 extending upward from flange 151, a neck region 153 formed above lower conical wall section 152, an upper conical wall section 154 extending upward from neck region 153, and a substantially flat, disk-shaped upper membrane 155 located at the upper portion of upper conical wall section 154. Lower conical wall section 152, neck region 153, upper conical region 154, and membrane 155 define an interior chamber 157. As indicted in Fig. 1, when mounted in bottle assembly 100, a ring-shaped portion of flange 151 is pinched between an upper edge of neck 113 and a portion of upper portion 145 of cap 140, and interior chamber 157 of nipple 150 communicates with storage chamber 117 of bottle body 110. Lower conical wall section 152 extends through the opening defined in disk-shaped upper portion 145 of cap 140, and gradually tapers from a relatively wide diameter near flange 151 to a relatively narrow diameter D2 at neck region 153. Above neck region 153, upper conical wall section 154 again widens to a third, relatively wide diameter D3, which corresponds with the diameter of disk-shaped upper membrane 155. Flange 151 and conical sections 152 and 154 are formed using relatively thick sections of the elastomeric material, in comparison to membrane 155, which is relatively thin. In one embodiment, nipple 150 is

molded as a single integral piece using silicone. In this embodiment, flange 151 has a thickness ~~T1~~ T3 of approximately 0.1 inches and a diameter ~~D1~~ D3 of approximately 2 inches, lower conical wall section 154 has a thickness ~~T2~~ T4 of approximately 0.06 inches, and membrane 155 has a diameter ~~D3~~ D4 of approximately 0.75 inches and thickness of approximately 0.02 inches. As indicated in Fig. 8, during use (e.g., when an infant/child sucks on nipple 150 with bottle body 110 tipped such that liquid flows into nipple chamber 157), a pressure differential is generated such that a relatively high pressure inside storage chamber 117 becomes greater than a relatively low pressure in the infant/child's mouth, thereby causing membrane 155' to stretch upward from plane X-Y in the manner described above, thereby opening at least some of pinholes 158 and 159 to facilitate feeding.